

Appl. S.N. 10/696,447
Amdt. dated December 19, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 19, 2006
Docket No. 100204750-1

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In the claims:

1 – 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) A fuel cell, comprising:

at least one electrode operatively disposed in the fuel cell; and

an electrolyte in electrochemical contact with the at least one electrode;

wherein at least one of the electrode or and the electrolyte includes a solution-based metal oxide film are formed by a process comprising the steps of:

preparing a first solution having at least one metal salt dissolved therein;

preparing a second solution having a water soluble polymer dissolved therein;

combining the first solution and the second solution at a predetermined ratio to form a third solution;

depositing a layer of the third solution on a substrate; and

heating the substrate having the third solution layer thereon at a temperature sufficient to oxidize the at least one metal salt to form the solution-based metal oxide film.

25. (Original) The fuel cell as defined in claim 24 wherein the electrode comprises an anode and a cathode.

26. (Original) The fuel cell as defined in claim 24 wherein the first solution comprises at least two metal salts, the at least two metal salts having been dissolved individually into water, and combined at a predetermined ratio to form the first solution.

27. (Original) The fuel cell as defined in claim 24 wherein the second solution comprises the water soluble polymer dissolved in a solvent.

28. (Currently amended) The fuel cell as defined in claim 27 wherein the solvent is at least one of water or and isopropyl alcohol.

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29. (Original) The fuel cell as defined in claim 28 wherein the water soluble polymer is polyvinylalcohol.

30. (Currently amended) The fuel cell as defined in claim 29 wherein the at least one metal salt is at least one of cerium nitrate, samarium nitrate, gadolinium nitrate, praseodymium nitrate, cerium chloride, samarium chloride, gadolinium chloride, praseodymium chloride, indium tin oxide, yttria-stabilized zirconia (YSZ), samarium strontium cobalt oxide (SSCO), gadolinium doped ceria, or and mixtures thereof.

31. (Currently amended) The fuel cell as defined in claim 24 wherein the at least one metal salt is at least one of acetates, nitrates, halides, and sulfates of at least one of cerium, samarium, indium, gadolinium, praseodymium, yttrium, zirconium, strontium, and cobalt, or and mixtures thereof.

32. (Currently amended) The fuel cell as defined in claim 24 wherein the water soluble polymer is at least one of polyvinyl alcohols, starches, hydrocolloids, cellulose ethers, polyethylene oxides, polyacrylates, polyacrylamides, polyamines, polyimines, or and mixtures thereof.

33. (Original) The fuel cell as defined in claim 32 wherein the water soluble polymer is polyvinyl alcohol.

34. (Currently amended) The fuel cell as defined in claim 24 wherein the substrate is one of single crystal silicon, polycrystalline silicon, silicon oxide containing dielectric substrates, alumina, sapphire, ceramic, cermets, or and mixtures thereof.

35. (Currently amended) The fuel cell as defined in claim 24 wherein the predetermined ratio is varied to achieve a viscosity of the third solution which is sufficient for deposition by at least one of spin coating, spray coating, or and dip coating.

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36. (Currently amended) The fuel cell as defined in claim 24 wherein the depositing step is accomplished by at least one of spin coating, spray coating, or and dip coating.

37. (Original) The fuel cell as defined in claim 24 wherein the heating step is accomplished at a temperature ranging between about 400°C and about 1200°C.

38. (Currently amended) The fuel cell as defined in claim 24 wherein the solution-based metal oxide film has a thickness ranging between about 0.05 μm and about 5.0 μm .

39. (Original) An electronic device, comprising:
a load; and
the fuel cell of claim 24 connected to the load.

40. (Currently amended) A method for using ~~[[a]]~~ the fuel cell as defined in claim 24, comprising the step of:

~~operatively connecting the fuel cell to at least one of an electrical load and an electrical storage device, the fuel cell comprising at least one electrode, and an electrolyte in electrochemical contact with the at least one electrode, wherein at least one of the electrode and the electrolyte are formed by a process comprising the steps of:~~

~~preparing a first solution having at least one metal salt dissolved therein;~~

~~preparing a second solution having a water soluble polymer dissolved therein;~~

~~combining the first solution and the second solution at a predetermined ratio to form a third solution;~~

~~depositing a layer of the third solution on a substrate; and~~

~~heating the substrate having the third solution layer thereon at a temperature sufficient to oxidize the at least one metal salt to form the metal oxide film.~~

41. (Currently amended) The method as defined in claim 40 wherein the at least one electrode is one of an anode and or a cathode.

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42 – 48. (Cancelled)